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**ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER EMMETT TURNER TO ADDRESS  
GRADUATING CLASS OF FIREFIGHTERS**

BELL BUCKLE, TN – Emmett Turner, Assistant Commissioner for the State Fire Marshal's Office will address the recruit firefighters graduation ceremony at the Tennessee Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy June 11.

"Firefighters are often the first line of defense in any emergency," said Turner, who is the former Police Chief for Metro Nashville. "Firefighters are life-savers, and a well-trained firefighter is the backbone of a community's public safety."

Located on 330 acres in Bedford County, the Academy campus has been "home away from home" to these students for nine weeks. Many of these recruits have been employed with their local fire departments but have never stepped foot into a burning building before attending the Academy's Recruit/Firefighter 1 Program.

The rigorous training course includes life and death fire and rescue scenarios, conducted on the 24-hour-a-day emergency basis that firefighters live with daily. Beyond the scheduled classroom lectures, exercises and loading fire hose, the recruit class learned to be ready to respond at any hour - night or day - to the real-life challenges of rescuing trapped "victims" and handling hazardous fuel spills.

"With the new focus on Homeland Security, it has never been more important for firefighters to be exceptionally prepared," Turner said. "Our firefighters stand at the ready each and every day in order to protect our lives and property, and they're devoted to that mission."

Tennessee's Fire Service and Codes Enforcement Academy opened in 2002 to provide affordable, state-of-the-art fire and codes training to all Tennessee communities. The Academy is expanding its mission to include training for all types of first-responders, and to function as a regional training center for Homeland Security.

The graduation ceremony will be held at the Academy on Friday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. The sixteen-member graduating class represents 11 Tennessee Fire Departments from across the state.

**Recruit / Firefighter I 01-04  
Student Roster**

*Grady Dale Bilbrey*

Murfreesboro Fire Department

*James K. Emerton*

Hendersonville Fire Department